The DUTY *and* ADVANTAGES *of encouraging* Public INFIRMARIES:

A

SERMON,

694.9.7
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Preached before His GRACE

CHARLES Duke of *Richmond*, *Lenox*, and *Aubigny*,

PRESIDENT;

AND THE

GOVERNORS

OF THE

LONDON INFIRMARY,

In GOODMAN'S-FIELDS,

FOR THE

RELIEF of Sick and Diſeaſed MANUFACTURERS, and SEAMEN in MERCHANT-SERVICE, *&c.*

AT THE

Pariſh Church of *St. Mary-le-Bow*,

On FRIDAY, *March* 25, 1743.

By the Right Reverend Father in God,
ISAAC, *Lord Biſhop of* St. Aſaph,

Maddox
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PSALM xli. ver. 1.

Bleſſed be the man that conſidereth the poor; the Lord ſhall deliver him in the time of trouble.

Or, as it is in another Tranſlation;

Bleſſed is the man that provideth for the ſick and needy, the Lord ſhall deliver him in the time of trouble.

THIS Pſalm, which contains many pathetic arguments for compaſſion and liberality to the ſick and miſerable, ſeems to have been compoſed when *David* himſelf had felt the tortures of ſome painful diſeaſe; and felt them too with an additional vexation, not unlike that which po-

verty often ſuffers from neglect and contemptuous uſage. *Mine enemies*, ſays he, ver. 5. *ſpeak evil of me, when ſhall he die and his name periſh.* Such ſufferings in his own perſon naturally excited a quicker ſenſe, a ſtronger ſympathy of the misfortunes endured by thoſe unhappy people, who laboured under any ſimilar Diſtreſs.

FROM the greatneſs of this diſtreſs, this double diſtreſs of ſickneſs and poverty, mentioned in our text, the aſſiſtance adminiſtered in ſuch calamitous caſes, becomes at once more beneficial to the poor ſufferer, a fund of greater joy to the liberal benefactor, and a reaſonable ground for better hopes of the divine acceptance and bleſſing. *Bleſſed is he that conſidereth the ſick and needy, the Lord ſhall deliver him in the time of trouble; the Lord will preſerve him and keep him alive, and he ſhall be bleſſed upon earth, and thou wilt not deliver him into the hand of his enemies* ver. 1, 2.

A ſubject that ſo particularly tends to the honour of our great Creator; to the comfort and benefit of our ſuffering fellow-creatures; to the eaſe and delight of every rational mind, well deſerves the moſt attentive regard, while we enquire into the nature, obligation,

and

and recompence of a duty so amiable and excellent.

BLESSED *is the man that* CONSIDERETH *the sick and needy*; the original expression, *considereth* the sick and needy, imports a prudent care in the application of our bounty; a wise and deliberate distribution, entirely different from a rash and thoughtless, though perhaps well-intended, profusion.

THE more difficult it is to distinguish real from pretended objects of charity; and the greater inconveniencies arise from encouraging laziness and debauchery, under the appearance of distress, the more requisite it is to employ the strictest caution, that the clamorous and unworthy may not eat the bread of the poor; nor idleness and imposture riot in that relief, which is justly due to actual want and sickness.

BLESSED *is the man*, says the wise son of SIRACH, *that meditates good things in wisdom*, Ecclus. xiv. 20. And the sacred penman of the text justly observes, *that a good man is merciful and lendeth; he hath dispersed abroad, he hath given to the poor.* But however extensive his beneficence may be, *he will guide his affairs with discretion.*

HAPPY

HAPPY would it be for the race of man, *born to trouble as the ſparks fly upward*, if every kind and every caſe of miſery could receive a ſuitable and full relief! The moſt ſanguine expectation reaches not ſo far. And therefore the firſt, though not the only inſtance of care ſhould be employed to remove thoſe misfortunes, which are the moſt immediate and moſt preſſing; where the greateſt benefit ariſes to each miſerable object; and where the ſame degree of aſſiſtance, the ſame kind contribution will reach the greateſt number of poor ſufferers. Charity, the moſt diffuſive, muſt have its bounds: no liberality can reach every object. Prudence and œconomy therefore will examine and *conſider* the caſe of the poor, that as few as poſſible be left deſtitute, or ſent empty away.

THESE general principles ſo naturally lead your thoughts to the good work, which occaſions the preſent ſolemnity, that it is needleſs to mention the application.

WE are now aſſembled in ſupport of an INFIRMARY, in that part of this trading and populous city, where ſo beneficent a proviſion is greatly wanted. This INFIRMARY is a charitable foundation, for the relief of ſeamen in merchant-ſervice, and poor artificers,

whom

whom providence is pleaſed to viſit with divers diſeaſes; and being thus incapacitated for that honeſt labour, which was their only ſubſiſtance, they are no longer able to furniſh to themſelves either food or phyſic.

THE mere naming this good deſign pleads powerfully in its favour, awakens every tender ſentiment of pity and compaſſion, and ſuggeſts every argument of humanity, reaſon, and religion.

FOR this charitable work we are met together in the houſe of GOD, to acknowledge the Divine goodneſs in that ſucceſs which has already appeared; and to implore his bleſſing, *from whom cometh every good and perfect gift*, for further aſſiſtance and encouragement, for which there are ſo many importunate demands.

SUCH inſtitutions in general, hoſpitals and infirmaries, have for many reaſons been approved and ſupported by the beſt and wiſeſt men.

I forbear to mention, among theſe reaſons, the valuable improvements that are hereby made in medicinal knowledge, for the general good of mankind; or the moſt proper inſtruction of ſucceeding generations by juſt obſervations founded upon real facts; and the

beſt

beſt ſupply of ſkill and experience, which theſe ſeminaries afford to ſtudents in this beneficial ſcience. Upon ſeveral other accounts theſe publick receptacles for the ſick and diſeaſed ſtand recommended for their great utility.

INDIGENT ſickneſs, which at home would probably have no advice, or ſuch as frequently proves worſe than none, receives in theſe humane and beneficial foundations all the advantages, which can ariſe from the knowledge and experience of the moſt eminent in the honourable and uſeful profeſſions of phyſick and ſurgery.

BY this wiſe and generous aſſiſtance, *the poor and the rich meet together*; and the ſame diſorders in both find equal relief from the ſame ſkilful hands.

THE art of medicine extends to many conſiderations, it is by no means therefore depretiating that valuable ſcience to obſerve, that few cures are effected by phyſick, by drugs only: proper food, due regimen, neceſſary attendance, and above all, eaſe and tranquility of mind have a large ſhare in every recovery. But how can a neceſſitous ſick creature enjoy this eaſe of mind, when, could he obtain a proper preſcription, he has neither money nor credit

credit to procure the diet or the phyſick preſcribed to him: or, if he could find credit, muſt dread the ſad conſequences of incurring debts, that no future induſtry may ſatisfy?

EXPERIENCE has ſhewed, with melancholy conviction, that the proviſion made by particular pariſhes, however burdenſome to the inhabitants, is far from affording competent relief to thoſe poor, who labour under ſickneſs and diſeaſes.

IN many inſtances how ſlow and imperfect is the cure of theſe working people, to the detriment of the publick, as well as the inconvenience of private families? And who can calculate what numbers totally periſh, or are diſabled for life by the ignorance of unſkilful practitioners, or the hardineſs of adventurous empiricks; or ſometimes ſuffer from the miſtaken kindneſs of well diſpoſed neighbours, whoſe intentions are much better than their ſkill and knowledge?

BUT beſides theſe inconveniencies, 'tis impoſſible to ſay how large the catalogue may be of deſtitute, helpleſs wretches, who having languiſhed a conſiderable time, after many reſtleſs nights and mournful days, half famiſhed, unpitied and unrelieved, ſuffer the miſeries of a lingering death; and thereby

prove an annual diſgrace, as well as loſs to their native country!

PAROCHIAL proviſions, as was obſerved, being thus inſufficient and inadequate, ſeveral publick endowments have interpoſed to ſupply the defect.

IN theſe places, pretended complaints and impoſture, which deceive the good nature and inexperience of private perſons, far from finding encouragement, are ſure to be detected; and whatever is charitably given, muſt by this means be effectually and totally apply'd.

NOR is it poſſible, that any donation ſhould be here perverted to the purpoſes of idleneſs, vice and debauchery, where the general relief is adminiſtered in no other form, than wholeſome food, or well prepared medicines. And when once the cure is effected, the patient is immediately diſcharged and never allowed to continue an unneceſſary incumbrance upon charity.

THIS rule, however, is not ſo rigidly obſerved, but that in caſes of real neceſſity, and in ſuch only, perſons of known induſtry and intirely deſtitute, receive ſome ſmall aſſiſtance, after their recovery, for immediate ſupport, that they may not periſh for want of food and raiment, before they can earn them by their uſual labour.

AND

And during their abode in this Infirmary juſt care is taken, at proper ſeaſons, to impreſs their minds, with a ſenſe of religion; and improve their vacant hours to thoſe beſt of purpoſes, which tend to the greateſt advantage thro' the whole extent of their preſent and future exiſtence.

But beſides the Care that is here employed, both for the bodies and ſouls of men, 'tis a conſideration of much weight, that any aſſiſtance thus adminiſtered is happily managed as an united fund; and thereby rendered beneficial to the greateſt extent. Were every benefactor to employ the ſame ſum, in a ſeparate way, which he now beſtows in common, how very few in compariſon could be relieved by theſe divided pittances?

Scarcely credible it is how vaſt the advantages are, which ariſe from this united application of charity and benevolence. I ſpeak now only as to the larger extent of charitable gifts thus collected together, and the much greater number of objects that can be relieved in this method of joint contribution; without conſidering the better advice, the more regular attendance, and other advantages the diſtreſſed receive in this Infirmary, which cannot attend any private help.

So that charities thus united, like feeble twigs when bound together, gain new ſtrength, and become not only more certain in the application, but much more beneficial by an extenſive influence and operation; every individual is likely to obtain better aſſiſtance, and much larger numbers are certainly relieved.

Nor can this conſideration appear with greater force than in the happy conduct of that well contrived inſtitution, which is now imploring your aſſiſtance; and the bare mention of ſuch management is ſufficient applauſe.

This good deſign takes its date from the third of *November* 1740, not quite two years and a half ago; ſince which time more than five thouſand objects have been relieved; and very near that number of ſick and lame and diſeaſed perſons have, by the bleſſing of God, been actually reſtored to their health and limbs. The whole expence of theſe numerous cures, including ſome accidental charges that don't return, amounts to little more than fourteen hundred pounds.

In a caſe of this importance it will not, I preſume, be thought too minute to enter into a calculation, whereby it appears, that theſe poor objects, one with another, have received the benefit of a cure, for many grievous

vous complaints, at ſo ſmall coſt as five ſhillings and ſeven pence each patient; and in this eſtimate is included more than three hundred and ſeventy poor diſeaſed people, who have, as in-patients, been received into the houſe, and, during their continuance, entirely maintained. Upon another calculation (ſuch is the frugal adminiſtration of this charity!) no more than two ſhillings appears to be the charge of curing the out-patients one with another. What would ſuch ſcanty ſums avail, were there an equal certainty, which cannot be the caſe, that the whole would be duly employ'd in ſeparate gifts!

I dwell the longer upon this topic, becauſe it carries ſuch ſtrength of perſuaſion to encourage a deſign, made ſo extenſively uſeful by the moſt frugal application. Such diffuſive œconomy has a double advantage; one, as benefactions are thereby rendered ſerviceable to a greater number of afflicted people; and another, as it is ſo powerful an argument for liberality, when it is thus manifeſtly well employed.

MANY of theſe circumſtances are common to all inſtitutions of this kind, the ſeveral Infirmaries and Hoſpitals, which are an honour and bleſſing to this metropolis and kingdom; but in the plan now before us,

there

there appear, in ſome reſpects, peculiar generoſity and gratitude. This is a ſcheme that ſtands diſtinguiſhed, both in the manner of its execution and the objects that are here relieved; objects that eminently deſerve a tender pity and liberal aſſiſtance: laborious, uſeful MECHANICKS, who with cloſe confinement and conſtant toil, frequently the occaſion of their diſorders, furniſh the various Materials of your ſafety, eaſe and pleaſure: and MARINERS in MERCHANT-SERVICE, the inſtruments of our commerce, and the ſource of our wealth, who at the expence of their health, very often at the hazard of their liberty and lives, carry into foreign countries, to the immenſe profit of their own, all the ſuperfluous and unemployed productions of the ſoil and labour of this kingdom: and inſtead thereof import the different produce, both uſeful and ornamental, of diſtant climates, for your accommodation and delight, while you remain at home in ſecurity and peace.

How entirely is the Nation indebted for its riches, glory, ſtrength, and power, to both theſe claſſes of uſeful Men; and how juſtly are their misfortunes intitled to all the relief, which compaſſion, gratitude, or prudence

dence can recommend; prudence, I ſay, becauſe the loſs of this rank of people, though by negligence and diſregard, like a decay in the very vitals, certainly weakens and deſtroys the body politic.

And in thoſe inſtances, where a cloſer connection and intercourſe appear, where the ſubſiſtence and wealth of any perſon entirely depend upon the advantages he receives from the labour theſe people undergo, or the dangers they run; a peculiar obligation ariſes to pity their misfortunes, and alleviate their miſery in want and ſickneſs, by adminiſtring to their neceſſities out of that plenty, which is derived from the ſweat of their brows, and the hazard of their lives.

'Tis truly worthy of the wiſdom and generoſity of a *Britiſh* government, to ſecure an honourable retreat, a comfortable ſubſiſtence for thoſe brave and gallant men, who, in defence of the rights and commerce of their country, have not only expoſed their lives to the perils of the ocean, to ſtorms, and rocks, and unhealthy climates; but to all the rage of war!

Highly reaſonable it is, that when ſailors have endured the pain of grievous wounds, the loſs of limbs; or by long fatigue, and

many

many dangers, have haſtened the infirmities of old age; highly reaſonable it is that the remains of a life, ſo bravely and uſefully employed, ſhould be rendered as eaſy as poſſible, and find a decent proviſion without anxiety or care.

BUT the diſabled merchant-ſeaman and ſickly manufacturer, however beneficial their employments are to the publick, ſhare not this publick relief: that is devolved upon your more private and neceſſary charity: and under this benevolent inſtitution they feel its influence in full extent.

THESE charitable doors are always open; open at every hour of every day; and open to every ſufferer, how low ſoever reduced. None can be too poor and friendleſs to be relieved within theſe hoſpitable walls; no expence, no charge at their admiſſion; nor any ſecurity required againſt future contingencies.

THIS diſtinction is not meant to ſuggeſt a miſconduct in any other charitable foundations; where long experience has convinced the world of an affectionate and ſucceſsful concern for miſerable objects.

BUT yet, 'tis impoſſible for *human nature* not to wiſh, that, upon re-conſidering this matter, ſome harmleſs expedient may be found,

that

that the moſt extreme poverty may no more be an argument againſt relief under ſevere diſeaſes; nor the doors of an Hoſpital any longer ſhut againſt a periſhing wretch, becauſe he is entirely deſtitute of friends and money.

HOWEVER ſmall a demand may be, if it exceeds the power of him that is obliged to ſatisfy that demand, no doubt it becomes too heavy and therefore conſiderable. Though the number of ſuch refuſals may not be very great; yet the ſettled condition of admittance being well known, may diſcourage many attempts, that don't appear: weak, ſickly people will hardly undergo the fatigue of crawling to the gate of an hoſpital, only to be refuſed entrance. And very unhappy it is, that this refuſal is grounded ſingly upon friendleſs poverty, upon that extreme diſtreſs, which ſeems the ſtrongeſt reaſon for an unconditional reception.

BUT to return; if in the preſent conduct of this well-intended undertaking any defects appear; or if, in any inſtance, it is capable of improvement; gentlemen of Knowledge, reputation and ſubſtance, who, to their own honour and the benefit of their fellow-creatures make a daily inſpection into the concerns of this eſtabliſhment, are extremely de-

ſirous of rendering the good deſign beneficial to the utmoſt extent, that human affairs will admit.

WITH gratitude they receive all information and advice; and will execute, with care and fidelity, whatever is found practicable and advantagious.

'TIS now almoſt univerſally admitted, notwithſtanding the impious efforts of a ſlaviſh philoſophy in the laſt age, that MAN, by the circumſtances of his own being, and the conſtitution of things about him, as well as the expreſs inſtructions of Divine revelation, was deſigned and required by providence, to act under the agreeable character of a ſocial creature: and that all the ſons of *Adam* ſhould conſider themſelves as branches of the ſame family; as parts of the ſame general body, and *members one of another*.

WITH no view can men be better connected together; for no purpoſe can a ſociety be more uſefully framed; or more agreeably to the intentions of the great Creator, our common Father, than to alleviate the diſtreſs and leſſen the calamities to which fellow-creatures are ſubject: and the more ſevere and heavy theſe calamities are, and the leſs ability the ſufferers

ſufferers have to reſcue themſelves; the united endeavours of perſons in a happier condition become ſtill more laudable and beneficial: and every condeſcenſion, from a higher exaltation to the loweſt degrees of miſery, is juſtly intitled to a diſtinguiſhed applauſe.

THERE is, moreover, another very agreeable circumſtance that attends theſe ſocial combinations. The various apprehenſions of mankind, the different opinions entertained upon points of government and policy, as well as upon ſubjects of a higher nature, are too often apt to inflame the paſſions, create animoſities, and produce, at beſt, a cold diſregard; ſometimes, it is to be feared, much rage and fierceneſs: but this mutual intercourſe in works of charity, ſmooths and rubs off theſe aſperities. A joint labour of love, by uniting in ſome meaſure the views of different perſons, forms a kind of friendly cement; ſoftens the angry paſſions, and abates that ſevere and harſh opinion, which men of diſagreeing ſentiments and views are too ready to entertain and propagate upon the whole character of one another: while the ſame earneſt concurrence in ſuch charitable works, an equal zeal to proſecute the ſame good deſigns, naturally create a better opinion of each other,

and afford juſt reaſon mutually to believe, that differences upon other matters do not take their riſe from ſuch bad principles, as are too often imputed by angry opponents: ſuch united acts of charity and compaſſion publickly confute the narrow and ſuſpicious query, *Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?*

NOR ſhould it be omitted, that the better to anſwer the benevolent purpoſe of this ſociety, and conciliate more friendſhip among its members, no other diſtinction is obſerved in the reception and treatment of patients, than the reality and greatneſs of their diſtreſs.

SUCH is the conſtitution, and ſuch the management of this excellent foundation! And are arguments requiſite to gain a favourable reception to a work ſo truly beneficent! Can human nature need perſuaſion to encourage ſuch a deſign; or can a Chriſtian require any importunity thus to obey and imitate his bleſſed Saviour, *who went about continually doing good, and healing all manner of ſickneſs and diſeaſes among the people?* With what engaging force do religion and humanity, our reaſon and affections, generoſity and juſtice, love to our fellow-creatures, love to our country, and love to ourſelves; the pleaſure, the honour,

nour, the reward of ſuch benefroence, all, plead the moving cauſe of ſo much innocent diſtreſs!

CAN the leaſt doubt remain in any breaſt whether this pious and uſeful deſign, undertaken with diſintereſted compaſſion and conducted with great prudence, deſerves approbation, or cenſure? whether an eſtabliſhment, ſo helpful to the ſore calamities of our fellow-creatures, ſhould be generouſly encouraged, or totally deſtroyed? I ſpeak it diſtinctly, totally deſtroyed —— For thoſe, who refuſe a proper aſſiſtance, when it is in the power of their hand to grant it, declare aloud by ſuch refuſal —— Let this deſign periſh and come to nought.

NOT to ſupport ſo humane an undertaking, is, to the extent of our power, to ſubvert it as effectually, as the with-holding food muſt prove fatal to an helpleſs infant.

INDIFFERENCE and diſregard, or the ſmoother language of an empty applauſe, with kind wiſhes and good hopes that encouragement may ariſe elſewhere to ſupport the uſeful project; what is all this, but aggravating the guilt of an avaricious and uncharitable mind? What is it, but publickly owning, we

ought

ought to give, when we cruelly determine to grant no help?

VERY unwilling I am to ſuppoſe, that there can be an individual perſon ſo inſenſible of the miſery of mankind; ſo regardleſs of a duty of the higheſt obligation: God forbid, that there ſhould be one heart ſo wickedly obdurate; ſo void of all the affections of a man, all ſenſe of religion as a Chriſtian!

ARE the ſorrows of theſe unhappy creatures leſs genuine, is their miſery leſs grievous, becauſe providence has kindly placed you in circumſtances not converſant with ſuch dreadful ſcenes of woe?

ATTEND theſe Hoſpitals; examine the mournful caſes that offer; ſee what pitiable objects appear; ſuch diſmal ſpectacles as would pierce the hardeſt heart: 'tis not in human nature to be inſenſible of ſo much human miſery.

BUT if your apprehenſion of the relief to be adminiſtered alleviates the horror of ſuch ſights in the Hoſpitals themſelves, enter the wretched abodes, the diſmal cellars and garrets, where both poverty and ſickneſs dwell! Can you behold helpleſs children with their afflicted mother, ſhedding their unavailing

availing tears around a meagre ſpectacle of pain and diſeaſes; crying for bread for themſelves, and health to the once ſupport of the family! all their hearts fainting within them!

Did you behold but one ſuch ſcene of miſery (and God only knows how many ſuch there are!) what tender emotions muſt it raiſe in your breaſts? would it not melt you into ſorrow? your heart, perhaps, would be ſtill more ſenſibly touched, ſhould you happen to reflect, that this miſery, great as it is, might poſſibly proceed from laborious endeavours to gain a bare, a hard ſubſiſtence, by furniſhing you with the accommodations of a plentiful and eaſy life? If ſuch concern ſhould ariſe from a ſingle inſtance; how muſt this ſympathy encreaſe from numbers? how little able would you be to bear the ſight of collected pain and anguiſh; the hundreds, the thouſands of theſe poor miſerable beings tortured in their limbs, their bodies, with great variety of grievous and painful diſtempers; however different in other ſad complaints, all ſtruggling with the heavy preſſures of extreme want, utterly incapable to provide for their own relief, or even ſubſiſtence! Sick and needy too; *deſtitute, afflicted, tormented!*

Could

COULD you hear the melancholy ſound of bitter cries, the piercing groans of real diſtreſs; could you ſee at once, all this deplorable collection of pain and torture, aggravated by the cutting anxieties of deſtitute poverty; good God! what a moving ſcene would this ſad aſſemblage prove! whoſe heart could bear the miſerable ſight? what bowels would not melt? whoſe eyes would not diſſolve in tears?

WHAT have you felt your ſelves? what have you ſeen your friends, your children, endure under the ſevere anguiſh of an acute diſtemper; or the languiſhing pains of a chronical and laſting diſorder? how afflictive, how tormenting have theſe ſenſations proved, though free from the diſmal fears of periſhing for want of neceſſaries!

RECOLLECT what you yourſelves have ſuffered, even without the diſadvantages of poverty; when your ſorrow was not like unto their ſorrow: you will then much better *remember thoſe that ſuffer adverſity, as being yourſelves alſo in the body.* And being in the body, ſubject to the accidents and calamities of this changeable world, ſuppoſe yourſelf, or neareſt relations, groaning at once under the united weight of ſickneſs and indigence; and

and in the revolutions of Providence how ſoon may that unhappy time appear! e'er long it will be the caſe; when you muſt want deliverance in time of trouble; what would you then wiſh ſhould be done unto you? would you not then deſire comfort and conſolation?

Such acts of charity will yield the only conſolation in ſeaſons of ſickneſs and diſtreſs; in all time of your tribulation. *Bleſſed is the man that conſidereth the ſick and needy, the Lord ſhall deliver him in the time of trouble; the Lord comfort him when he lieth ſick upon his bed: make thou all his bed in his ſickneſs!*

The preſent is, perhaps, the only opportunity we may ever enjoy of giving a public and generous teſtimony to a work ſo truly uſeful, ſo humane and chriſtian.

Go to the houſe of mourning; or carry even your thoughts into the diſmal chamber but of one dying man; dying for want of that kind aſſiſtance which you may now, and perhaps only now, adminiſter! could you ſee the departing wretch, with eager wiſhful looks, praying for ſome friendly relief, but finding none; could you look upon the honeſt, poor, neglected creature, ſtruggling with the agonies

of death; in anguiſh inexpreſſible, for want of timely help, breathing the laſt gaſp of a miſerable life; with what paſſion would you wiſh to have contributed, as you now may, to his health and preſervation!

I can go no farther; GOD Almighty ſpeak the reſt to every chriſtian heart——

THESE poor people cannot recompence you; but you *will be recompenſed at the reſurrection of the juſt.*

Such Perſons therefore as are inclined to encourage and promote ſo laudable a work, are deſired to ſend their Subſcriptions or Benefactions to Mr. Thomas Minors, *Banker, in* Lombard-ſtreet, *who will give proper Receipts for the ſame. And any Perſon inclined by his laſt Will to bequeath a Legacy to this Charity, is deſired to do it in the following Manner,* viz.

Item, *I give and bequeath unto* A. B. *and* C. D. *the Sum of* *upon Truſt, and to the intent that they, or one of them, do pay the ſame to the Treaſurer or Treaſurers for the Time being, of the Society of the Governors of the* London Infirmary, *for the Relief of Sick and Diſeaſed Manufacturers, Seamen in Merchant-Service, their Wives and Children; which ſaid Sum of* *I deſire may be applied towards carrying on the charitable Deſigns of the ſaid Society.*

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

RISE, PROGRESS, and STATE

OF THE

LONDON INFIRMARY;

Supported by

CHARITABLE and VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION, for the Relief of Sick and Diſeaſed MANUFACTURERS, SEAMEN in MERCHANT-SERVICE, and their WIVES and CHILDREN; from the Firſt INSTITUTION on the 3d of *November* 1740, to the 25th of *March* 1743, incluſive.

Reaſons for the Inſtitution.

OF all Circumſtances that affect the Mind of Man with Compaſſion, no one ſeems to touch it ſo nearly, as the ſeeing our Fellow-Creatures labouring with Diſeaſes, and even periſhing under them for want of proper and timely Aſſiſtance; for who, that is not ſavage in nature, can paſs regardleſs by thoſe Numbers of miſerable Objects, who daily preſent themſelves to us, and whoſe various Diſeaſes (were all other Motives ſilent) would be as ſo many Tongues, which at once ſpeak their own Anguiſh and excite our Pity.

As the Characteriſtick of the *Engliſh* is to be humane and beneficent, ſo nothing ſhews it more than Inſtitutions of a publick Nature, ſuch as Hoſpitals and Infirmaries, which are here better regulated and ſupplied with Neceſſaries, than in any other Country whatſoever. Some there are of Royal Endowment, and eſtabliſhed Revenue, and others of more modern Inſtitution, erected and ſupported by the generous and voluntary Contributions of good and well-diſpoſed Perſons; but all theſe are by Experience known to be no ways adequate to the Numbers that ſeek Aſſiſtance from them; for as they can take in no more Patients than they have Beds, or give Medicine to more than what their Income will allow, many poor unhappy Creatures muſt be unavoidably loſt. For 'tis a Truth well known, that tho' the City of *London* is more populous, and by its Trade and Navigation, the labouring Part thereof are more ſubject to Accidents and Diſeaſes than the common People of *Paris*; yet it appears from the annual printed Accounts, that the *Hotel Dieu* alone contains more Patients at one time than all our Hoſpitals and Infirmaries together. If ſuch Proviſion is made for the diſeaſed Inhabitants of *Paris*, thoſe of *London* more immediately require our Regard; particularly, the *Britiſh* Manufacturers and Seamen, as they are the chief Support of both our foreign and domeſtick Trade.

The Strength and Security of *Great Britain* depending chiefly on our Naval Power, the Wiſdom of the Legiſlature has ſhewed a peculiar Concern for the Comfort and Happineſs of ſuch infirm and diſabled Seamen, as have been engaged in the Service of the Royal Navy. But for Seamen employ'd only in the Service of the Merchant, and trading Part of the Kingdom, or the Wives and Families of ſuch, in Diſtreſs by Sickneſs, no deſirable Publick Proviſion has yet been made, or particularly inſtituted for their Relief. Nor are our numerous, poor, induſtrious Manufacturers, and Artificers, or their Wives and Children, by any particular Donations or Eſtabliſhment, ſufficiently provided for, under the Calamity of bodily Diſeaſes and Caſualties; tho' in ſuch afflicting and melancholy Circumſtances, they are incapable of providing for themſelves or Families by their uſual Labour and Induſtry.

Theſe

These Considerations have indeed many benevolent and publick-spirited Noblemen, Gentlemen, Merchants, and others, to turn their Thoughts upon raising by publick Subscription, a LONDON INFIRMARY, where *British* Sailors in the Merchant-Service, their Wives and Children; and poor *British* Manufacturers, their Wives and Children, are daily admitted, and find Relief, in Distress by Sickness or Casualties: And this without any Difficulty or Expence of Admittance.

Situation.

In order to answer the Ends proposed, *a large House was taken in* Prescot-street, Goodman's Fields, which Situation was judged the most convenient, as being near the usual Abodes of Manufacturers and Seafaring Men in the Merchant-Service, and at a considerable Distance from any Hospital.

Regulation of the House.

The House is spacious and convenient, contains about forty Beds, properly and airily disposed, is furnished with Linnen, and all necessary Conveniencies. The *Matron*, a sober and discreet Woman, has the Charge of the House and Furniture; the Direction of the Nurses, and other Servants; and sees the Diet and Medicines administred according to Order. Under her, are Nurses, and Watchers, in proportion to the Number of Patients, of experienced Honesty and Tenderness, who are guided by written Orders to prevent Misconduct of any kind. Proper Diet for the Patients has been settled by the Gentlemen of the Faculty engaged in this Charity, and is fixed up in the Wards for the Satisfaction of the Patients and their Friends.

Physicians and Surgeons.

A *Physician* and *Surgeon* of Reputation are appointed, and attend daily, from Eleven to One, without any Fee or Reward, and give their Advice to all such poor diseased Objects, as think proper to come in those Hours, whether recommended or not; and other Physicians and Surgeons of Character attend and advise in all dangerous or extraordinary Cases.

Dispensary.

The *Dispensary* is furnished with Drugs, which being first viewed and reported Good by a Committee for that Purpose, are bought at the best Hand, and compounded at the *Infirmary*, where an Apothecary resides, who constantly and solely attends the Business thereof.

No

No Officers or Servants are permitted upon Pain of Expulſion to take of any Tradeſmen, Patients, or other Perſons, any Fee, Reward, or Gratification of any kind, directly or indirectly, for any Service done, or to be done, on Account of this Infirmary.

Chaplain. And as the Governors of this Charity are deſirous that the utmoſt Regard may be had to the Souls of the Patients, as well as their Bodies, a Clergyman of the Church of *England* has generouſly undertaken, without any Gratuity, to read Prayers, and perform the other Duties of his Function, at the *Infirmary*.

Qualification of a Governor. Every Subſcriber of Five Guineas Yearly is a Governor of this Charity, from the Time of his paying in the ſame, and is entitled to ſend in as many Patients as there are Vacancies of Beds; but if they can't be receiv'd as In-patients, they are reliev'd as Out-patients. Every Gentleman giving a Benefaction of thirty Guineas at once, will be a Governor for Life.—All Subſcriptions are during Pleaſure, and ſmaller Sums, from well-diſpoſed Perſons, will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

Buſineſs of Governors. Four Governors in Rotation every Month, with any others that are pleaſed, attend weekly, in order to receive and diſmiſs Patients, ſuperviſe the Proceedings of the Houſe, and do ſuch Buſineſs as is uſually done by Committees, at other Hoſpitals, and report the ſame at the next Quarterly or General Meeting. There is a General Meeting of the Governors every Quarter, before whom a Report is made from the Weekly Committees, all By-Laws are then confirmed, all Vacancies fill'd up, and Accounts Audited. Alſo an Annual General Meeting of all Subſcribers to Reviſe and Confirm the General Account of Proceedings, which is immediately after publiſhed for the Satisfaction of the Publick.

The Accounts are kept in a regular mercantile manner, and the Names of the Patients, their Employment, Place of Abode, Diſorder, the Iſſue of the Caſe, and the Name of the Subſcriber who ſent them, are inſerted in ſeveral Columns in a Book for that Purpoſe; and are always ready for the Inſpection of Subſcribers, as alſo the Statutes and By-Laws for the particular Regulation of this *Infirmary*.

All

All Poor, Sick, and Lame, who are recommended, or appear to the Committee to be truly needfull, are received from the Hours of Eleven to One, who are supply'd with Advice, Medicine, Diet, Waſhing, Lodging, and every comfortable Aſſiſtance during their Cure. No Perſons with incurable or infectious Diſtempers, or of known Ability to pay for their Cures, are admitted to partake of this Charity; but all Accidents are received at any Hour of the Day or Night.

This is the Plan of our Proceedings, and tho' this Work is but in its Infancy, yet ſuch has been the extraordinary Encouragement given to it, by Numbers of Diſtinguiſhed Humanity, that we have the Satisfaction to aſſure the Publick, that ſince the 3d of *November*, 1740, it has pleaſed God to bleſs us with ſuch Succeſs, that upwards of 5000 diſtreſſed Objects have been Relieved at the *London Infirmary*, and from Labouring under the Oppreſſion of ſome of the moſt malignant Diſeaſes, and unhappy Accidents, have been reinſtated in their Honeſt and Induſtrious Capacities of Working; (whereby the Publick again enjoy the Benefit of their Labour,) they, and their poor Families preſerved from periſhing; and prevented from being a conſtant Incumbrance to the Community.

The Subſcribers are deſired to take Notice, that if any Patients ſhall not conform to the Rules of the Houſe, or are guilty of any Miſbehaviour, they will be diſcharged for ſuch Irregularity, and never more relieved by this Charity.

An

An Account of Receipts and Payments of FOTHERLEY BAKER, Esq; Treasurer of the LONDON-INFIRMARY, from the 2d of *May* 1740. (the Commencement of the said *Infirmary*) to the 1st of *Jan.* 1741.

Money Received.				Money Expended.			
To Cash received by Governors Subscriptions	267	15	0	By Houshold Furniture —	29	3	4
To other Subscriptions —	9	15	0	By Firing — — —	4	11	8
To Poor's Box — —	21	14	6	By Candles — — —	1	13	4
				By Turnery Ware — —	3	3	5
				By Repairs — — —	15	3	0
				By House-Rent and Taxes	19	10	0
				By Salaries, Wages, and Gratuities — —	87	15	5
				By Boarding In-Patients —	27	11	6
				By the Dispensary — —	63	3	11
				By Soap — — —	2	1	6
				By Stationary Ware and Printing — — —	9	15	11
				By petty Expences — —	5	1	4
	298	14	6		268	5	6
				By Balance —	92	9	0
					298	14	6

An Account of Receipts and Payments of THOMAS BOEHM, Esq; Treasurer of the LONDON-INFIRMARY, from the 1st of *January*, 1741. to the 25th of *March*, 1743.

Money Received.				Money Expended.			
To Cash received of *Fotherley Baker*, Esq; the late Treasurer, the Balance of his Account	92	9	0	By House-keeping for Provisions, *viz.* Butchers Meat, Bread, Beer, Butter, Oil, Soap, Firing, Candles, *&c.* — —	314	4	4½
To Governors Subscriptions	735	0	0	By Houshold Furniture	307	2	2½
To other Subscriptions —	23	16	2	By House-Rent and Taxes	41	15	0
To Benefactions — —	339	7	6	By Salaries and Wages —	150	3	9
To the Poor's Box — —	41	1	0	By Stationary Ware and Printing — —	27	1	10
	1231	13	8	By petty Expences —	55	19	5
				By the Dispensary —	174	15	11
				By Burials — — —	1	5	0
				By Fitting up the House	73	18	10
					1146	6	4
				By Balance —	85	7	4
					1231	13	8

Received from the Commencement of this Charity, *viz.*

By *Fotherley Baker*, Esq; — —	298	14	6
By *Thomas Boehm*, Esq; — — —	1139	4	8
Total — *l.*	1437	19	2

An Account of Patients under the Care of the INFIRMARY *to the 12th of May, 1742.*

Patients in the House —	127	Patients then in the House —	29
Out-Patients —	2188	Out-Patients on the Books —	311
	2315		340
		In-Patients discharged, cured —	105
		Dead — —	10
		Discharged, incurable —	12
			127
		Out-Patients, cured —	815
		Dead — —	93
		Discharged, who did not return Thanks, but most of them known to be cured	876
		Incurable —	15
		Discharged for Misbehaviour, or by Desire	49
			1848
			2315

N. B. Out of this Number, 29 were Casualities received into the House without Recommendation.

An Account of Patients from the 12th of May 1742, *to the 25th of* March 1743.

Patients received in the House —	195	Patients now in the House	30
Out-Patients —	2507	Out-Patients now on the Books	294
	2702		324
		In-Patients discharged, cured	143
		Incurable —	9
		Dead —	13
			165
		Out-Patients cured, who returned Thanks	1113
		Dead —	72
		Incurable —	25
		Discharged for Misbehaviour,	53
		Relieved by Advice —	264
		Discharged, who did not return Thanks, though most of them known to be cured	686
			2213
			2702

N. B. Out of these, 56 were Casualties received without any Recommendation.

Under the Care of this Infirmary,

From 3 *Nov.* 1740, to 12 *May* 1742 — — 2315
From 12 *May* 1742, to 25 *March* 1743 — — — 2702

Total 5017

A LIST OF GOVERNORS and CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *LONDON* INFIRMARY.

His Grace CHARLES Duke of Richmond, Lenox, and Aubigny, Preſident.

** FOTHERLEY BAKER, Eſq; Vice-Preſident,
RICHARD CHISWELL Junior, Eſq; Treaſurer.

*Thoſe marked thus * are annual* GOVERNORS.
*Thoſe marked with ** are* GOVERNORS *for Life.*

A

* George Arnold, Eſq; Alderman

* The Rev. Mr. Audley
* Edm. Anderſon, Eſq;
* Tho. Alſton, Eſq;

* Geo. Armſtrong, Eſq;
* John Atwood, Eſq;
** John Andree, M.D.
* Mr.

* Mr. Claude Aubert, Merchant
* Mr. Robert Avis, jun.

B

* Joſeph Lord Biſhop of Briſtol
* Right Hon. Charles Lord Baltimore
* Sir John Barnard, Kt. and Alderman
** Tho. Boehm, Eſq; Merchant
** Mr. Peter Bigot, Merchant
** Mr. Chriſt. Barton
** Mr. William Birkin
** Edward Barker, Eſq;
** Bryan Benſon, Eſq;
* Mr. J. Buxton
** Mr. J. Buxton, jun.
* Joſ. Beachcroft, Eſq;
* Matt. Bateman, Eſq;
* Solomon Baker, Eſq; Merchant
* Mr. Taylor Bates
* Mr. J. Burrows
* Mr. Joſeph Bird
* Mr. George Bell
* Mr. Herman Berens
* Mr. Malachi Blake
The Rev. Mr. John Berriman
Mr. Noah Bliſſon
Mr. Bowen
Mr. Joſ. Biddlecomb

C

* His Grace John Lord Archbiſhop of Canterbury
* Matthias Ld Biſhop of Chicheſter.
* Charles Lord Cornwallis
* Lord James Cavendiſh
* Sir George Champion Knt. and Alderman
** Mr. Ja. Conyngham
** J. Coningham, M.D.
* Rev. Mr. Calamy
* Del. Carbonell, Eſq;
* Will. Corbett, Eſq;
* Samuel Cox, Eſq;
* Daniel Collyer, Eſq;
* Capt. Richard Crabb
* Capt. John Chapman
* Mr. Robert Carter
* Mr. Thomas Cecil
* Mr. John Collet
* Capt. Humphry Conway
* Mr. Will. Crammond
* Mr. Tho. Cogan
* Mr. Sam. Cowling
Mr. Cooley
Mr. Crank
John Cook, M. D.
Mr. James Crafts
* Mrs. Dorothy Card
Mrs. Sarah Calamy
Mrs. Mary Calamy

D

** Peter Ducane, Eſq;
* Sir John Delange, Kt. Merchant
* Liebert Dorrien, Eſq;
* Thomas Day, Eſq;
* John Daye, Eſq;

* Mr.

* Mr. John Duvall
* Mr. Henry Dodſon
* Mr. Dav. Dumouchel, Merchant
Mr. Duprie, Merchant

E.

* Nicholas Lord Biſhop of Exeter
* Robert Lord Biſhop of Ely
* Mr. John Eede
* Mr. Jonathan Eades

F.

** Joſ. Fawthrope, Eſq;
** Jon. Forward, Eſq; Merchant
* Charles Feake, M.D.
* Mr. Aaron Franks, Merchant
* Mr. Napth. Franks, Merchant
* Mr. H. J. Franks, Merchant
* Mr. Edw. Forreſt
* Mr. John Faber
* Mr. Will. Fletcher
Mr. Tho. Faſbrooke
* Mrs. Anne Fonnereau

G

** Mr. John Godfrey
** Mr. James Godin
* Will. Goſſelin, Eſq;
* Nath. Garland, Eſq;
* Caleb Grantham, Eſq;
* Geo. Garratt, Eſq;
* Mr. John Gigneau
* Mr. John Goodwin
* Mr. Edw. Gregg
* Mr. Daniel Gobbé
* Mr. Thomas Gibbs
* Mr. Henry Giffard
Mr. Francis Grubert

H

* Sir Joſeph Hankey, Knt. and Alderman
** John Hopkins, Eſq;
** Mr. J. Harriſon
* The Rev. Mr. Leon. Howard
* Fran. Hopegood, Eſq;
* Mr. R. Harriſon
* Mr. Edw. Harding
* Mr. Samuel Horne
* Mr. Will. Homer
* Mr. Will. Hodſhon, Merchant
* Mr. J. Hutchinſon, jun.
* Mr. John Hanbury, Merchant
* Mr. Iſaac Hunter
* Mr. George Hume
Captain Harding
Mr. Hinton
Mr. Francis Hill

** Mrs.

** Mrs. Jane Holden
** Miſs Priſc. Holden
** Miſs Mary Holden

I.

His Grace Hugh late Lord Primate of Ireland
** John Jeſſe, Eſq;
* The Rev. Mr. Jewſon
* John Julian, Eſq; Merchant
* Tho. Jeffreys, Eſq; Merchant
* Mr. John Jaques
* Mr. Rich. Janeway, Merchant
* Mr. David Jeffries

K.

* The Rev. Mr. John Kippax
* Mr. Will. Kemp
Mrs. Kellaway

L.

* Edmund Lord Biſhop of London
* The Hon. George Lee, L. L. D. one of the Lords of the Admiralty
**Mr. John Lancaſhire
* Mr. Henry Loubiers
* Mr. W. Londibourg
* Mr. Richard Letch
* Mr. Pet. Abr. Luard, Merchant
Miſs Lamb

M.

** Nich. Magens, Eſq;
* Robert Myre, Eſq;
* Ebenez. Muſſell, Eſq;
* William Myre, Eſq;
* Adam Martyn, Eſq;
* Thomas Minors, Eſq;
* Harwood Martin, Eſq;
* Tho. Martin, Eſq;
* Mr. Will. Martin
* Mr. Tho. Meadows
* Mr. George Maſon
* Mr. John Maleat
* Mr. Thomas Miſt
* Mr. John Moſeley
* Mr. Bowler Miller
* Mr. John Meredith
Mr. Edmund Munday
Mr. Mayo
Mr. David - Gregory Mounckfield
*Mrs. Mendes de Coſta
* Miſs May

N.

* Thomas Lord Biſhop of Norwich
* Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart.
** Robert Nettleton, Eſq;
** Mr. Rich. Newman
** Henry Norris, Eſq;
* John Newe, Eſq;

O

* Thomas Lord Biſhop of Oxford
* Nath. Oldham, Eſq;

P

* Right Hon. Earl of Pembroke
** John Peck, Eſq;
** Mr. William Petty
* David Papillion, Eſq;
* Edw. Price, Eſq;
* Mr. Hen. Pomeroy, Merchant
* Mr. Sam. Penford, Merchant
* Mr. Thomas Page
Mr. William Pearce
Mr. Peirman

Q

* Mr. Tho. Quarrell

R

* Her Grace the Dutcheſs of Richmond
** John Ruſſell, Eſq;
* Rich. Ricards, Eſq;
* Stephen Riou, Eſq;
* John Raymond, Eſq;
* Mr. Will. Richold
* Mr. Hen. Robinſon
* Mr. Stephen Rogers
* Mr. Richard Ruſſell
* Mr. Tho. Rawlins
* Mr. Tho. Rayner
Mrs. Mary Reading

S

* Thomas Lord Biſhop of Sarum
* Right Hon. Earl of Sandwich
* Sir Cha. Sedley, Bart.
* The Right Hon. Edward Southwell, Eſq;
** Mr. Deputy Richard Sclater Merchant.
** John Snee, ſen. Eſq; Merchant
** John Snee, jun. Eſq; Merchant
* Geo. Shelvocke, Eſq;
* Edw. Stevenſon, Eſq;
* Mr. John Solley
* Mr. Rich. Symonds
* Mr. Will. Seaman
* Mr. John Simpſon
* Mr. John Saint
* Mr. Tho. Shewell
* Mr. Edw. Stephens
The Rev. Mr. Stirling

Mr.

Mr. Henry Swan
Mr. Thomas Stibbs
Mr. John Savage

V

The Hon. the Commiſſioners of the Victualing Office.
* The Hon. Vice Admiral Vernon
* Mr. Thomas Vigne, Merchant
* Mr. Henry Unwin
Mr. Samuel Vernon
* Mr. Rich. Windſor
* Mr. John Waters
* Mr. Anthony Wall
* Mr. Sherman Wall
* Mr. Amos Wenman
* Mr. Humph. Wright
Henry Woodfall, jun.
Mrs Mary Wilſon.

T

* Sir John Thompſon, Knt. and Alderman
* The Rev. Mr. Tanner
* Robert Thornton, Eſq;
* Geo. Thornborrow, Eſq;
* George Taylor, Eſq;
* Mr. James Taylor
* Mr. John Thruckſton
* Mr. Will. Tennant, Merchant
* Mr. Rob. Turlington
The Rev. Mr. Robert Talbot
Mr. Geo. Jerv. Tapp
Mr. Samuel Torin, Merchant
Mr. James Torin

W

* Right Hon. Earl of Winchelſea, firſt Lord of the Admiralty
* Benjamin Ld Biſhop of Wincheſter
* Iſaac Lord Biſhop of Worceſter
* Right Hon. Robert Willimot, Eſq; Lord Mayor
** Hon. Major-General Williamſon
* Rev. Mr. J. Weſley
* Rich. Warner, Eſq;
* John Wormby, Eſq;
* Mr. Lawrence Williams
* Mr. Robert Waſtfield
* Mr. Thomas Weſt

Y

* His Grace Thomas Lord Archbiſhop of York
* His Grace Lancelot, late Lord Archbiſhop of York
* Mr. John Young

Z

* Mr. John Zachary, Merchant

The

BENEFACTIONS, &c.

	l.	s.	d.
Mrs. Sarah Morgan's Legacy —	50	0	0
A Perſon unknown, by Mr. Robert Harriſon, —	5	5	0
Ditto — by Tho. Boehm, Eſq; —	5	5	0
Ditto — by Ditto —	3	3	0
Ditto, in Suffolk, by William Myre, Eſq; —	5	5	0
Mr. Raymond —	3	3	0
From a Lady unknown, by the Rev. Mr. Broughton	3	3	0
Mrs. Catherine Morrice — — — —	4	4	0
By a Lady unknown — —	2	2	0
By a Lady unknown, by Iſaac Ld. Biſhop of St. Aſaph	5	0	0
Ditto — by Iſaac Lord Biſhop of St. Aſaph	5	5	0
From A. B. — —	5	5	0
From a Perſon unknown — —	2	2	0
From a Lady unknown, by the Rev. Mr. Broughton	1	1	0
From a Perſon unknown by the Rev. Mr. Calamy	2	2	0
Ditto, by Mr. Thomas Jones —	2	2	0
Sundry Houſhold Goods from Mr. James Latour, to the Value of — —	50	0	0
From Ditto in Caſh — —	62	10	0
From a Perſon unknown by Ebenezer Muſſell, Eſq;	21	0	0

Dr. John Andree, Phyſician
Mr. John Harriſon, Surgeon
in Ordinary.

Dr. John Coningham, Phyſician
Mr. William Petty, Surgeon.
Extraordinary.

Rev. Mr. Matthew Audley, Chaplain
Mr. Godfrey Webb, Apothecary
Mr. Richard Neale, Secretary.